

# GOLDEN ERA

New Mexico as a State; The Development of Its Resources, and the Elevation of Its People.

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**GENERAL MERCHANT,**

WHITE OAKS, - NEW MEXICO.

## COUNTY NEWS.

A little shower every afternoon. Everybody wore a broad smile Monday.

Mrs. Capt. Davidson is on the sick list.

The Penasco delegates remembered us when in town.

Frank Berry, of the Agua Chiquito, came in from the lower country Tuesday evening.

Fred Alberding came over from Poe's ranch, Thursday morning, on legal business.

John C. Swartz, a prominent citizen of the Ruidosa, arrived in Lincoln Thursday noon.

Several families from Texas passed through Lincoln a few days ago, hunting for a location.

The Stock Association meets the first Monday in August at Seven Rivers. Let all interested attend.

The Lincoln County Stock Association meets at Seven Rivers the fourth of August, or one week from next Monday.

John P. Eaker made our hearts feel gay with his hearty laugh and beaming countenance when over to the convention.

Any of our subscribers who complain of the Era not having any news are first-class "kickers" from "Kickerville."

Several communications on the inside of this week's paper, beside the proceedings of the County Commissioners, in full.

We noticed a party threshing wheat the other day, by driving a bunch of goats over it. It is pretty slow work, but they get that just the same.

Capt. Brazel, of Eagle Creek, informed us, while here, that they averaged thirty pounds of butter weekly, or over \$2.00 a day from their cows.

Will Ellis, Jim Breat, Benj. Ellis and Sam Corbett went down to August Clinic's, last Thursday, fishing. They caught, between them, some 75 fish.

The Mexican we spoke of last week as being unable to give bonds for assaulting his wife, procured the same Wednesday, and was re-arrested Thursday morning.

James Redman and W. H. Hodgins, two White Oaks delegates, took a drive out to Chas. Fritz's ranch Tuesday and didn't leave for the Oaks till the following day.

J. P. Eaker, James Redman, Capt. Wilkerson and John James were very kind in helping in getting our composing stones up stairs. We are under many obligations for the same, gentlemen.

Uncle John Walters and stepson Manuel Siseneros, of White Oaks, passed through Lincoln Monday for the Honda. Their trip is for a double purpose—to take a little recreation and to look around for a permanent location.

The butcher at Fort Stanton met with quite a severe accident a few days ago. He was roping his horse, when the animal stepped into a prairie dog hole and fell on his (the butcher's) right leg, breaking it twice. We are not acquainted with the gentleman, but understand he is an industrious man, and has the sympathy of the entire Post.

Last Saturday, as a party of gentlemen from the Penasco were coming along by Elk Springs, some twenty miles from the Agency, they noticed a band of Indians in camp and who seemed to be greatly excited. It was raining very hard at the time, and as they approached nearer, the Indians motioned for them to go back. Two or three of the party went on ahead and found that an Indian squaw had been killed by lightning. She had been holding a frying-pan over the fire when struck, and still had a death grip on the same. Her little girl was lying near her, unconscious, and when the men picked her up the Indians held up their hands in horror. They bathed the child's head in cold water, and asked for a blanket to put around her. The Indians informed the party they had none. One of the gentlemen stepped into a tepee near by and brought out a blanket but the Indians would not let him put it around her, but informed him that the blankets, etc., should be burned. When the party left, the dead squaw was still lying on the ground in the rain and the Indians about twenty yards away from her, seemed much in doubt.

## PENASCO KILLING.

### Two Desperadoes Gone.

**JOHN SUTTON AND MILTON V. NIXON,**

The Slaying of Young Valentine, Meets Their Doom.

The following account of the recent killing on the Penasco is a correct and true statement of affairs, as given us by parties familiar with the history of the case. We will simply give a brief account of the killing, as told us, and, although quite long, it will be found interesting reading to those of our best citizens who are always glad to hear of the country being rid of such men.

Nixon came to the Penasco during the summer of '83 and went to work for John James. Soon after he journeyed a ranch that Jack Wilson had located in Frank H. Lea's name. Threats were made by Wilson and Nixon, but nothing of any consequence happened until late in the fall of 1883. Nixon went to El Paso and made the acquaintance of Sutton, who accompanied him back to the Penasco. Sutton went to work for James also.

During the early part of '84, trouble was anticipated between Nixon and Wilson. Sutton went with Nixon to the ranch, as he said, to

in case Nixon carried out his threats. The next morning, Mr. Valentine, an estimable young man was killed. Nixon acknowledged having killed Valentine, notwithstanding everyone believed that Sutton did the killing, as stated in Wilson's testimony.

About this time Sutton jumped a ranch on the Agua Chiquito that Mr. John Windsor had bought of Nick Booth, Windsor paying \$1,200 for the same. Nixon, clerked for Ben. F. Henry after the killing of Valentine until District Court convened. The grand jury failed to find a bill against them and soon after they took up their abode with Nick Booth. Immediately after court Mr. John James went to Las Cruces for supplies. The second night after James left

his wife eloped with Sutton, going to Sutton's ranch. Nixon was suspected of having been implicated in planning the elopement, regardless of the kind treatment he and Sutton had received from Mr. James.

Soon after James returned it was reported that some parties went to Sutton's house and fired several shots at him as he stepped out of the door. Two shots were said to be those of a shot-gun, loaded with buck-shot. None of the shots took effect. On account of this several men's lives were threatened who were suspected of taking a hand in the shooting. The houses of Sutton and Nick Booth were both ventilated with port holes, giving them the appearance of a fort. A short time after the shooting Nick Booth and Sutton went to El Paso, taking the woman and one small boy that had followed her after the elopement, where they left them.

Sutton and Booth returned about the 4th inst., and on the 5th or 6th they went to the brush. Nixon played between the Penasco and Agua Chiquito as courier. It wasn't long after this Mr. Walker missed a horse. Several days after they first missed the horse, it returned in a bad condition, showing that it had been ridden. This was about the 12th inst. That night it was taken again and left at a place called the "Twelve Mile Canon." On the night of the 13th two horses, bridles and saddles were stolen from Messrs. Lea & Pierce's ranch, known as the "Six Mile Ranch." One horse, saddle and bridle belonged to Mr. Tison's son Buck, the other saddle to R. A. Buford an employee, and the other horse to Lea & Pierce. The thieves were evidently old hands at the business, as they took off their boots and went into the house in

their sock feet.

On the morning of the 14th, Dick Davis, foreman of the ranch, went after Mr. E. W. Keene. They started and were joined by Messrs. McBride, Brown and Ballard. They soon struck

mountains, around the head of the Penasco and over in the vicinity of the Agua Chiquito. That night they stopped at Capt. Wilkerson's. The next morning, the 15th, the party was satisfied who had stolen the horses, and concluded to go and get proper authorities and resume the search. The party, except Mr. Keene went round the head of the Penasco. Capt. Wilkerson remembered seeing Nixon coming out of the mountains the evening before. Keene and Wilkerson, believing that Nixon had been to the camp of the thieves, went and followed Nixon's back trail. It led them to their camp, which had been abandoned. The horse tracks around the camp were identified as being the stolen horses, one wearing a half shoe on one hind foot. The trail was followed to a point north of, and near Mr. C. F. Booth's house, where the horses were found. The thieves had evidently been notified that they were pursued, as they turned the horses loose and a point was found where two footmen had left the horse trail. The horses were brought in by Keene and Wilkerson.

During the afternoon Nixon was seen entering Henry's store, and it was believed he came for news. He stayed in the store till after sundown, when he went to the door to take observations. When he stuck his head out of the door a

REPORT OF A GUN was heard and Nixon fell to the floor stunned for a few moments only. He was wounded in the head, the ball taking effect above the right ear, making a slight flesh wound.

A party of four knowing the reputation of the men suspected, started to re-inforce Keene and party, but missed them. They camped that night and at day-break on the morning of the 16th, they were on the south side of the Agua Chiquito canon, in sight of Sutton's and Booth's houses. With the aid of field-glasses they discovered that Sutton, Booth and one or two more were there. The re-inforcement party posted themselves at two points and waited for Sutton and Booth to leave, believing they would go to the horses. About 7 o'clock a. m. Sutton and Booth started to go to the hills on the south side of Agua Chiquito. After leaving the house they separated—Booth going in the direction of the Barred, James and Helmes party, and Sutton going about 75 or 100 yards to the right of the other two boys. When Sutton got nearly opposite the boys, Booth had come in contact with James and Helmes and opened fire. Just at that time the other party opened fire on Sutton.

James and Helmes were slightly wounded—James in the right arm, above the elbow, and Helmes under the right arm. Sutton fell mortally wounded at the first shot, with a ball in his left hip, but

FOUGHT LIKE A TIGER, calling for Booth to come to him, but his partner in crime had business some where else, and went to attend it. Booth's wife heard the appeal and went to him. She dragged him to shade and went for help to carry him to the house. He was taken to the house, where he died that afternoon at 3 o'clock. Sutton was a man of an iron nerve. He did not believe he was going die; did not complain of being in misery, any more than to say "that he never thought that a bullet could give a man so much pain as that had given him."

Becoming weak from loss of blood, James and Helmes left the scene of battle, not knowing the fate of Sutton. Helmes made his way back to the Penasco before noon, leaving James on the way, who was too weak to take the ride. He was brought in that afternoon. The party who gave Sutton his fatal shot took things very cool. They went hunting and killed a fine elk, returning to the Penasco that night with the news that was gladly received by every

MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD. Nixon stayed in Henry's back room from the evening of 15th till next afternoon, when he slipped out the back door and went down the river about one and a half miles. On the 17th he attempted to make his escape back to the Agua Chiquito, but was overtaken and riddled with bullets.

This ended the career of two desperate men, who bid defiance to law and civil authorities, and said time and time again "that if they got into any more trouble they would never surrender, preferring to die fighting than to be taken prisoners again." Raskers had better give the Penasco country a wide berth.

of good men, who will make a nasty fight when compelled to.

The latest news from the Penasco country was Tuesday, and we learn that there has been no further trouble, but that Sheriff Poe and party had gone up the river, probably in search of Nick Booth and one or two others. Although it is a God send to the country to have such men killed off, it gives the county and territory a bad name abroad, which is deplored by the Penasco people, as well as the county at large.

## WHITE OAKS ITEMS.

J. J. Light is now at Newhall, Cal.

A. K. Lee and Lloyd Schell are in town.

Chas. A. Roebert's post office address is Megan, Texas.

Joseph Steck and Thomas Wallace were in town Sunday.

J. W. Kelly sold some of his sheep. Failed to report particulars.

It is reported that the Delaware Gold Mill will soon start up.

Mr. Eugene Flinn, who has been sick for a few days, is much better.

J. O. Nabours, manager of the Carizozo stock ranch, was in town Monday.

F. M. Chapman, one of the old timers, is now at Pack Saddle, Texas.

Elmer Albright represents promising White Oaks at the Plaza hotel.—Optic

The "boys" took out \$35.00 in Dry Gulch, last Saturday, in less than two hours.

Billy Robson has sold his cattle to Mr. Samuel Stone, and is now delivering them.

Mr. Peter Murphy, an old resident of Negai Canon, is here, on his way to Kingston, N. M.

We were shown some beautiful gold specimens from the new shaft on the Retta that has just been taken out.

Paul Wagner, G. T. Cullen and Billy O'Brien pulled out Saturday morning, with a wagon load of supplies, to find a ranch location.

The Democrats of this precinct all join in thanking the manager of the Industrial Building Association for the use of their commodious town hall, last Saturday.

W. H. Hood is the name of our new tonsorial artist. A first-class shave 25 cents; hair cut, 50 cents; shampoo 50 cents, or the three for \$1. He wishes to state to the stockmen, farmers and miners of Lincoln county that he will be found at Reynolds' old shop, at any hour, day or night.

M. Whiteman, the pioneer merchant of White Oaks, is receiving goods almost daily, which he is having unloaded at his new building. Mr. Whiteman is a western man, and knows what western people want in the mercantile line. He guarantees that he will not be undersold. Give him a call, and get prices. It will save you money.

## Supposed to be Murder.

Mr. J. M. Wilson, of Tularosa, very kindly writes us that the mail carrier, from that point to Las Cruces, found the body of an American, last Wednesday, the 16th inst., who had been shot. The body was found between San Augustine and White Water, and says it is supposed he was murdered.

## The Total Wealth of Lincoln County.

The following item will be found interesting reading for our tax-payers, as it shows the total number of horses, cattle, lands, &c., and total value of same:

	Total Number.	Total Value.
Acres of land	45,250	\$1,034,000
Improvements	2,441	26,150 00
Horses	339	75,400 00
Mules	339	15,100 00
Value	194,235	1,905,550 00
Cattle	26,219	129,800 00
Sheep	146	2,900 00
Swine	1,408	1,777 00
Value	122	1,278 00
Carriages	66	4,800 00
Wagons	375	17,210 00
Tools	98	1,181 00
Boats	42	69,500 00
Machinery		2,700 00
Merchandise		1,700 00
Value	15	3,110 00
Gold and silver plate		12,400 00
Mineral instruments		20,000 00
Household furniture		42 00
Money		14,700 00
Shares, stock, &c.		13,683 00
Bonds, contracts and warrants		
Notes, book accounts, &c.		
Property not enumerated		
Total		\$2,710,230 00

Our correspondents should address communications to Lincoln, N. M.,